

Communities of Opportunity

Interim Governance Group

Meeting Notes

June 17, 2016 2:00-4:00pm

*Location: The Seattle Foundation
1200 5th Ave, Seattle, WA 98104*

Members Present:

Adam Taylor, Adrienne Quinn, Betsy Jones, David Fleming, Gordon McHenry, Jr. (conference phone), Jeff Natter, Michael Brown, Michael Woo, Paola Maranan, Patty Hayes, Sili Savusa, Ubax Gardheere

Staff Present: *Alice Ito, Veronica Gonzalvo, Sharon Bogan, Marguerite Ro*

Welcome and Introductions

Michael Brown welcomed Communities of Opportunity (COO) Interim Governance Group (IGG) members, staff, and guests to the COO IGG meeting at the Seattle Foundation. Alice Ito served as meeting facilitator, introduced new staff person Veronica Gonzalvo (Administrative Specialist at King County, serving half-time to support COO), and reviewed the agenda.

2016 Backbone administration funding for three COO sites approved by IGG

- IGG members had received memo before the meeting with staff recommendation on 2016 backbone administrative support for the three COO sites. (See memo for background and details on funding requests). The recommended total funding for 2016 is \$703,893.
- King County representatives confirmed that \$50,000 of the Health and Human Services Transformation Catalyst Fund can be used for the 2016 backbone support funding.
- One of the IGG members would like to see additional detail on the White Center budget for 2016 backbone funds. Staff will facilitate this.
- The IGG discussed the importance of being transparent about its support of community partners in 2015 and 2016, and recommended continuing this clarity continue when Best Starts for Kids funds are allocated in the future. IGG also affirmed the usefulness of aligned funding for COO and interest in potential future sources of funds.
- Three IGG members associated with the three sites recused themselves from the vote (Ubax Gardheere, Sili Savusa, and Adam Taylor), and the remaining nine IGG members voted to support the 2016 funding recommendation.

IGG reflected on its May 12-13 retreat: main themes, key questions and follow-up

- Members who attended felt it was a very useful retreat and was time well-spent. High-level themes from the retreat were summarized in a brief report from consultant Jennifer Martin, and reviewed by the IGG, with additional comments and discussion. All agreed that although there remains much work to be done, substantial progress had been made. The IGG will continue to monitor the match between COO strategies and resources and the expected outcomes, through ongoing evaluation. In addition to tracking progress and wins, we will track new learnings and unexpected outcomes.
- IGG affirmed the importance of the COO framework and theory of change (TOC) agreed upon at the retreat, and the need for further articulation of the TOC, with narrative and clearer visual image.
- The five-year implementation plan for BSK forms a portion of the overall COO five year plan that IGG began discussing at the retreat. The plan is part of our structure for monitoring progress. The various sources of funding for COO along with capital investments will contribute to COO outcomes.
- Members recommended taking stock of best practices nationally, including new research on health, housing, economic opportunity and community connections that have come online in the last two years.

Catalyzing Community Change Network/Learning Community design next steps

- IGG discussed how the Learning Community is important in parallel with place-based site efforts, and can offer a range of ways to extend COO work in the region, in addition to the current three sites. COO is providing a continuum of investments, in which place-based funding is on part of the continuum. This is a refinement of the COO frame, based on our learnings since the beginning of COO. Within COO there are multi-directional relationships, so that site work and policy & systems change efforts link together.
- Questions to address include how the learning community is integrated and what mechanisms can help ensure linkage. Also, how to ensure that as the COO framework and TOC is refined, it informs the 5-year implementation plan.
- A subgroup of IGG was formed to refine the COO TOC, including clearer articulation of the Learning Community and the way it is integrated with other aspects of COO. It will recommend refinements of the TOC and accompanying narrative to the full IGG. Volunteers on the subgroup include: Adam Taylor, Betsy Jones, Michael Brown, Michael Woo, and Paola Maranan. Marguerite Ro and Alice Ito will provide staff assistance to the subgroup.

Update on Council process and COO communications materials

- Regional Policy Council meeting was attended by Betsy Jones, Cheryl Markham, Michael Brown, Alice Ito, Sili Savusa, Adam Taylor, and Tony To.
- Upcoming: August 23, 2016, 4-7pm Best Starts for Kids review, for the Health, Housing and Human Services Committee of the King County Council.
- IGG received an updated COO FAQ sheet (6.13.16) and summary of top-line messages about COO.
- Sharon Bogan is gathering updates on the theory of change or other communications materials. Please send additional updates to her.

Brief updates and announcements

- A new initiative, Strong, Prosperous and Resilient Community Challenge (SPARCC) will be announced soon by a consortium of funders and other entities (Kresge, Ford Foundation and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, along with staffing from Enterprise Community Partners, the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, the Low-Income Investment Fund and the Natural Resources Defense Council), and an Request for Qualifications (RFQ) will be sent to selected potential applicants. COO has been identified as a potential applicant. Staff will alert IGG and provide a recommendation. IGG will have a short window of time in which to decide whether or not to submit an application for funding by SPARCC.
- Betsy Jones noted she will be out in July.